

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

The corruption potential with limited ownership and control of media will erode freedom as we know it until Americans are no better off than Iraqi's before the fall of Saddam. We'll be left with the news and information we received censored by corporate pirates and the politically powerful to meet their agendas. This kind of biased journalism is the beginning of the end for American freedom. Once you control the media where lies and political agendas are served up as truth the people of this formerly great nation will no longer determine their own destiny, and freedom of speech will be a thing of the past. If you allow the Sinclair owned stations to use their media outlets to support or malign the character of any candidate for ANY office of government the FCC will be betraying the trust of the people and endangering the freedom of us all. Please consider the seriousness of the consequences of allowing any media owner to skew the outcome of a national election for either candidate. This simply cannot be tolerated if we are to have any confidence in the reliability our sources of information. Without the balanced truth coming into our homes we will soon become puppets manipulated by the powerful and influential in government and industry. Don't strip us of reliable sources of information about significant issues and candidates. Without reliable sources of information, history has shown that the next step after controlling the media is enslavement.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.